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sample of establishments and the collection of wage data by visits to establishments.

(c) A wage-change survey shall be made every other year using only the same employers, occupations, survey jobs, and establishment weights used in the preceding full-scale survey. Data may be collected by telephone, mail, or personal contact.

(d) Scheduling of surveys shall take into consideration the following criteria:

(1) The best timing in relation to wage adjustments in the principal local private enterprise establishments;

(2) Reasonable distribution of workload of the lead agency;

(3) The timing of surveys for nearby or selected wage areas; and

(4) Scheduling relationships with other pay surveys.

(e) The Office of Personnel Management may authorize adjustments in the normal cycle as requested by the lead agency and based on the criteria in paragraph (d) of this section or to accommodate special studies or adjustments consistent with determining local prevailing rates.

(f) The beginning month of appropriated and nonappropriated fund wage surveys and the fiscal year during which full-scale surveys will be conducted are set out as appendices A and B to this subpart and are incorporated in and made part of this section.

[55 FR 46141, Nov. 1, 1990]

§ 532.209 Lead agency.

(a) The Office of Personnel Management shall select a lead agency for each appropriated and nonappropriated fund wage area based on the number of agency employees covered by the regular wage schedule for that area and the capability of the agency in providing administrative and clerical support at the local level necessary to conduct a wage survey.

(b) OPM may authorize exceptions to these criteria where this will improve the administration of the local wage survey.

(c) The listing in appendix A to this subpart shows the lead agency for each appropriated fund wage area. The Department of Defense is the lead agency

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for each nonappropriated fund wage area.

[55 FR 46141, Nov. 1, 1990]

§ 532.211 Criteria for establishing appropriated fund wage areas.

(a) Each wage area shall consist of one or more survey areas along with nonsurvey areas, if any.

(1) *Survey area*: A survey area is composed of the counties, parishes, cities, or townships in which survey data are collected. Except in very unusual circumstances, a wage area that includes a Metropolitan Statistical Area shall have the Metropolitan Statistical Area as the survey area or part of the survey area.

(2) *Nonsurvey area*: Nonsurvey counties, parishes, cities, or townships may be combined with the survey area(s) to form the wage area through consideration of the criteria in paragraph (d)(1) of this section.

(b) Wage areas shall include wherever possible a recognized economic community such as a Metropolitan Statistical Area or a political unit such as a county. Two or more economic communities or political units, or both, may be combined to constitute a single wage area; however, except in unusual circumstances and as an exception to the criteria, an individually defined Metropolitan Statistical Area or county shall not be subdivided for the purpose of defining a wage area.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, wage areas shall be established when:

(1) There is a minimum of 100 wage employees of one agency subject to the regular schedule and the agency involved indicates that its local installation has the capacity to do the survey; and

(2) There is, within a reasonable commuting distance of the concentration of Federal employment;

(i) A minimum of either 20 establishments within survey specifications having at least 50 employees each; or 10 establishments having at least 50 employees each, with a combined total of 1,500 employees; and

(ii) The total private enterprise employment in the industries surveyed in the survey area is at least twice the

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Federal wage employment in the survey area.

(d)(1) Adjacent economic communities or political units meeting the separate wage area criteria in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section may be combined through consideration of:

(i) Distance, transportation facilities, and geographic features;

(ii) Commuting patterns; and

(iii) Similarities in overall population, employment, and the kinds and sizes of private industrial establishments.

(2) Generally, the criteria listed in paragraph (d)(1) of this section are considered in the order listed.

(3) When two wage areas are combined, the survey area of either or both may be used, depending on the concentrations of Federal and private employment and locations of establish-

ments, the proximity of the survey areas to each other, and the extent of economic similarities or differences as indicated by relative levels of wage rates in each of the potential survey areas.

(e) Appropriated fund wage and survey area definitions are set out as appendix C to this subpart and are incorporated in and made part of this section.

[55 FR 46142, Nov. 1, 1990, as amended at 57 FR 29783, July 7, 1992]

§ 532.213 Industries included in regular appropriated fund wage surveys.

(a) The lead agency must include the industries in the following North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes in all regular appropriated fund wage surveys:

| 2012 NAICS codes | 2012 NAICS industry titles |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 311 through 339 (except 323). | All manufacturing classes except printing and related support activities (NAICS 323). |
| 221 | Utilities. |
| 481 | Air transportation. |
| 482 | Rail transportation. |
| 484 | Truck transportation. |
| 485 (except 4853) | Transit and ground passenger transportation except taxi and limousine service (NAICS 4853). |
| 487 (except 4872) | Scenic and sightseeing transportation except scenic and sightseeing transportation, water (NAICS 4872). |
| 488 (except 4883 and 4884) | Support activities for transportation except support activities for water transportation (NAICS 4883) and support activities for road transportation (NAICS 4884). |
| 492 | Couriers and messengers. |
| 493 | Warehousing and storage. |
| 515 | Broadcasting (except Internet). |
| 517 | Telecommunications. |
| 5621 | Waste collection. |
| 5622 | Waste Treatment and Disposal. |
| 423 | Merchant wholesalers, durable goods. |
| 424 | Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods. |

(b) A lead agency may add other industry classes to a regular survey in an area where these industries account for significant proportions of local private employment of the kinds and levels found in local Federal employment.

(c) Specifically excluded from all wage surveys for regular wage schedules are food service and laundry establishments and industries having peculiar employment conditions that directly affect the wage rates paid and that are the basis for special wage surveys.

[55 FR 46142, Nov. 1, 1990, as amended at 71 FR 35373, June 20, 2006; 73 FR 45853, Aug. 7, 2008; 78 FR 58153, Sept. 23, 2013]

§ 532.215 Establishments included in regular appropriated fund surveys.

(a) All establishments having a total employment of 50 or more employees in the prescribed industries within a survey area shall be included within the survey universe. On rare occasions and as an exception to the rule, OPM may authorize lower minimum size levels based on a recommendation of the lead agency for the wage area.

(b) Establishments to be covered in surveys shall be selected under standard probability sample selection procedures. In areas with relatively few establishments, surveys shall cover all